

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). A software updating system, comprising:

a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses for supplying update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software via a network;

an electronic device for executing a process in accordance with said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus, wherein

said electronic device includes:

~~judging means for judging whether or not, among installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;~~

storing means for storing an update confirmation cycle for said installed software,

judging means for judging whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

detection means for detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging means has judged a confirmation to be necessary;

inquiring means for making an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection means; and

execution means for executing a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiring means, and

said update data supplying apparatus includes:

confirmation means for confirming the presence or absence of updates for said software regarding which there was an inquiry on the presence of updates by said inquiring means of said electronic device; and

supplying means for supplying to said electronic device said update confirmation information in accordance with a confirmation result by said confirmation means.

2 (Original). The software updating system according to claim 1, wherein said update confirmation information is one of update data for updating said software and information indicating the presence or absence of updates.

3 (Canceled).

4 (Original). The software updating system according to claim 1, wherein said judging means of said electronic device judges all of said installed software to be software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed when a predetermined event occurs.

5 (Original). The software updating system according to claim 4, wherein said event is one of the turning on of the power of said electronic device and the arrival of a predetermined time.

6 (Original). The software updating system according to claim 1, wherein after said update data supplying apparatus is detected by said detection means, said inquiring means of said electronic device waits until a predetermined time and makes an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software.

7 (Currently Amended). An information processing apparatus which executes a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses that supply, via a network, said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, comprising:

~~judging means for judging whether or not, among installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;~~

means for storing an update confirmation cycle for said installed software;

means for judging whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

detection means for detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging means has judged a confirmation to be necessary;

inquiring means for making an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection means; and

execution means for executing a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiring means.

8 (Currently Amended). An information processing method of an information processing apparatus which executes a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses that supply via a

network said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, comprising the steps of:

~~judging whether or not, among installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;~~

storing an update confirmation cycle for said installed software;

judging whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which a confirmation has been judged to be necessary in said judging step;

making an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected in said detection step; and

executing a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made in said step of making said inquiry.

9 (Currently Amended). A recording medium ~~in which is recorded~~ that stores a computer readable program for an information processing apparatus, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to execute ~~executes~~ a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses that supply, via a network, said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, said ~~program~~ process comprising steps of:

~~a judging control step for controlling the judgment as to whether or not, among installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;~~

storing an update confirmation cycle for said installed software;

judging whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

~~a detection control step for controlling the detection of~~ detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which a confirmation has been judged to be necessary in said judging control step;

~~an inquiry control step for controlling the making of an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected in said detection control step; and~~

~~an execution control step for controlling the execution of~~ executing a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made in said inquiry control step.

10 (Canceled).

11 (Currently Amended). A software updating system, comprising:

a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses for supplying update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software via a network;

a first electronic device for executing a process in accordance with said update confirmation information; and

a second electronic device for supplying to said first electronic device said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus, wherein

said first electronic device includes:

~~judging means for judging whether or not, among installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;~~

means for storing an update confirmation cycle for said installed software;

judging means for judging whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

detection means for detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging means has judged a confirmation to be necessary;

request means for making a request to said second electronic device to make an inquiry to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection means on the presence of updates for said software; and

execution means for executing a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said second electronic device in response to said request made by said request means,

said second electronic device includes:

inquiring means for making an inquiry, in response to said request made by said request means of said first electronic device, on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection means; and

a first supplying means for supplying to said first electronic device said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiry means, and

said update data supplying apparatus includes:

a confirmation means for confirming the presence or absence of updates for said software regarding which there was an inquiry on the presence of updates by said inquiring means of said second electronic device; and

second supplying means for supplying to said second electronic device said update confirmation information in accordance with a confirmation result by said confirmation means.

12 (New) A software updating system, comprising:

a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses configured to supply update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software via a network;

an electronic device configured to execute a process in accordance with said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus, wherein

said electronic device includes:

a storage unit configured to store an update confirmation cycle for said installed software,

a judging unit configured to judge whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

a detection configured to detect said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging unit judged a confirmation to be necessary;

an inquiring configured to make an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection unit; and

an execution unit configured to execute a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiring unit, and

said update data supplying apparatus includes:

a confirmation unit configured to confirm the presence or absence of updates for said software regarding which there was an inquiry on the presence of updates by said inquiring unit of said electronic device; and

a supplying unit configured to supply to said electronic device said update confirmation information in accordance with a confirmation result by said confirmation unit.

13 (New): An information processing apparatus configured to execute a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses configured to supply, via a network, said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, comprising:

a storage unit configured to store an update confirmation cycle for said installed software;

a judging unit configured to judge whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

a detection unit configured to detect said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging unit judged a confirmation to be necessary;

an inquiring unit configured to make an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection unit; and



an execution unit configured to execute a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiring unit.

14 (New). A software updating system, comprising:

a plurality of update data supplying apparatuses configured to supply update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software via a network;

a first electronic device configured to execute a process in accordance with said update confirmation information; and

a second electronic device configured to supply to said first electronic device said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus, wherein

said first electronic device includes:

a storage unit configured to store an update confirmation cycle for said installed software;

a judging unit configured to judge whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed based on said update confirmation cycle;

a detection unit configured to detect said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging unit has judged a confirmation to be necessary;

a request unit configured to make a request to said second electronic device to make an inquiry to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection unit on the presence of updates for said software;

an execution unit configured to execute a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said second electronic device in response to said request made by said request unit,

said second electronic device includes:

an inquiring unit configured to make an inquiry, in response to said request made by said request unit of said first electronic device, on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection unit; and

a first supplying unit configured to supply to said first electronic device said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiry unit, and

said update data supplying apparatus includes:

a confirmation unit configured to confirm the presence or absence of updates for said software regarding which there was an inquiry on the presence of updates by said inquiring unit of said second electronic device; and

a second supplying configured to supply to said second electronic device said update confirmation information in accordance with a confirmation result by said confirmation unit.